

later

September 12, 1971

Major John O'Brien
23 Inf. Division
South Viet-Nam

Dear Major,

Your story in the New York Times today prompts me to write to you, and to send you the enclosed report of research in the treatment of opiate dependence, as these data may be useful to you. Since this report was written, it has been possible to induct more than 40 patients into cyclazocine therapy without any side effects in 4 days, by combining two of the drugs listed here, cyclazocine and naloxone.

It has been my contention since late spring when the first details of the crisis in heroin use in Viet-Nam reached our newspapers, that the prophylactic use of cyclazocine and naloxone, given daily to troops in an endemic area, should provide protection against drug abuse, in much the same way that the daily administration of atabrine was useful during an earlier war in preventing malaria.

These data have been submitted to the Department of Defense and the recommendations have been made in the New York Times. However, both the DOD and the new office of the President are unwilling to risk the problems of a trial in Viet-Nam. To undertake a test study, they say, would be too expensive and too difficult, and would not receive the support of the field commanders.

Should these data interest you in your efforts, perhaps inquiries from the field may spur some trials.

Good luck in your efforts !

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

P.S. Should you doubt my credentials, please know that I am a consultant to the FDA, to various industries, and was Captain, MC during the second WW.